

Reserve
1.941
P5P94

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
302 Post Office Building, Orlando, Florida

March 24, 1952

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS FOR 1952

FLORIDA

If FLORIDA farmers carry out their present plans for 1952, the acreage to be planted in field crops will be slightly above 1951. The 1,135,700 acres indicated as a total to be planted in corn, oats, peanuts, tobacco, sweet and Irish potatoes and hay is 3 percent above the 1,104,300 acres planted in 1951 but 8 percent less than 10-year average of 1,236,900 acres. The slight increase in acreage over last year is due to larger acreages of oats, potatoes, sweetpotatoes and flue-cured tobacco. Declines from 1951 acreages are planned for peanuts, shade tobacco and all hay. The prospective acreage of corn is the same as the 606,000 acres planted in 1951. Peanuts planted alone for all purposes are forecast at 195,000 acres, compared with 201,000 acres for 1951. Shade tobacco growers in the Georgia-Florida area report intentions to set 5,100 acres in 1952, 100 acres less than 1951. Cotton, which is no longer under acreage control, is not included in this report but the goal acreage is 14 percent above the 1951 acreage.

Seeding of spring crops was reported as progressing favorably under generally good weather conditions. Planting of corn is well advanced in some areas while transplanting of bright leaf tobacco plants from plant beds to fields is making fair progress. Shade tobacco is being set out but there is some blue mold in beds.

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS FOR FLORIDA - 1952

C R O P	P L A N T E D A C R E A G E S					
	Average	Yield per	1951	Indicated	1952 as pct.	
	1941-50	Planted Acre		1952	of 1951	
	1941-50 Ave.					
	(000)		Thousands		Percent	
Corn, all	668	11.1 Bu.	606	606	100	
Oats	110	4.9 Bu.	117	146	125	
Hay, all	116	.56 ton	85	84	99	
Potatoes	30.2	150.0 Bu.	24.6	30.7	125	
Sweetpotatoes	14.5	66.0 Bu.	7.5	8.0	107	
Soybeans 2/	-	-	10.0	12.0	120	
Tobacco, all 1/	20.7	957.0 Lb.	26.6	27.0	102	
Tobacco, Type 14, 1/	17.3	930.0 Lb.	22.5	23.0	102	
Tobacco, Type 62, 1/	3.2	1102. Lb.	4.1	4.0	98	
Peanuts 2/	257	-	201	195	97	

UNITED STATES

Corn, all	88,379	34.1 Bu.	83,866	83,928	100.1	
All spring wheat	18,742		22,257	21,998	98.8	
Durum	2,644	14.7 Bu.	2,586	2,344	90.6	
Other spring	16,098	15.5 Bu.	19,671	19,654	99.9	
Oats	43,968	29.8 Bu.	41,594	42,818	102.9	
Barley	13,986	22.0 Bu.	10,840	9,752	90.0	
Flaxseed	4,283	8.8 Bu.	4,114	3,935	95.6	
Rice	1,594	2052 Lb.	1,981	1,971	99.5	
Sorghums, all purpose	15,260	-	15,113	13,442	88.9	
Potatoes	2,457	177.0 Bu.	1,379	1,373	99.6	
Sweetpotatoes	632	91.9 Bu.	316	334	105.4	
Tobacco 1/	1,630	1124 Lb.	1,782	1,804	101.2	
Beans, dry edible	1,991	910 Lb.	1,523	1,414	92.8	
Peas, dry field	504	1176 Lb.	323	267	82.7	
Soybeans 2/	12,788	-	14,838	15,457	104.2	
Peanuts 2/	3,649	-	2,593	2,158	83.2	
Hay 1/	74,536	1.36 Ton	74,718	75,380	100.9	
Sugar beets	833	11.9 ton	759	747	98.4	

3/

- 1/ Acreage harvested.
- 2/ Grown alone for all purposes.
- 3/ Short tons.

UNITED STATES

Farmers' plans for the 1952 crop season indicate relatively small changes from 1951 acreages. The 271.8 million acres indicated as a total of the 16 crops now estimated in March, is about a million acres less than in 1951. For individual crops, however, the tendency is to shift from crops of high labor requirements to those of a less intensive nature. Weather during the spring planting season is always a major factor in changes in plans. Other significant changes may result from the Department's production program, when all the goals and allotments receive the individual farmers' consideration. Spring activities were mostly at the usual stages on March 1. Soil moisture is generally satisfactory, although in part of the Southwest it is only temporarily adequate. Irrigation water supplies generally promise to be the best in recent years. Reports from farmers show a general concern over farm labor supplies and this appears to be a limiting factor in plans for 1952 operations.

A limiting factor in the acreage available for seeding spring crops is the large acreage sown to winter wheat last fall and of which little has been abandoned to date. Cotton acreage is not covered in current reports by farmers, but the goal acreage is about the same as the large 1951 acreage. Farmers indicate a strong desire to retain and increase their hay and grassland acreage and to shift to less intensive types of farming. Current plans indicate decreases from 1951 acreages of spring wheat, mostly durum, of barley, flax, all sorghums, peanuts grown alone, dry beans and peas. Large increases are indicated for oats, soybeans and hay. Changes from 1951 acreages of corn, rice, potatoes, sweetpotatoes, tobacco and sugar beets are likely to be relatively small.

Acreages of the principal crops to be planted or grown in 1952 are likely to total over 361½ million acres, allowing for numerous crops not yet surveyed. Such a total would be less than a million acres smaller than in 1951, and exceeded only 5 times since the 1929-33 period of record acreages. It is smaller than last year partly because there will be less abandoned winter wheat acreage available for replanting to spring crops and partly because of more grasslands. Little cropland is expected to lie idle.

The acreage in oilseeds will be little changed from 1951 in total, but there will be compensating shifts. Flax acreage will be reduced in virtually all States, the chief exception being in Texas. The acreage of peanuts grown alone may be reduced 435,000 acres, or about a sixth, with reductions in practically every State. On the other hand, increases in soybeans grown alone, in most important States except Iowa and the East North Central States, result in a net increase of 4 percent or 619,000 acres over 1951, to a new record acreage.

Another small acreage of potatoes is in prospect, 6,000 acres less than in 1951. A slight increase in sweetpotatoes is expected. Acreage declines of 7 percent for dry beans and 17 percent for dry peas are now indicated. Sugar beet acreage will be slightly smaller than last year. The acreage in tobacco will be about 1 percent larger. No estimates are made for cowpeas in this report, reducing to 16 the number of crops now covered.

CORN - The 1952 planted acreage of corn is expected to be 83,928,000 acres, according to farmers' reported intentions as of March 1. This is only slightly above the 1951 plantings of 83,866,000 acres.

James F. Lankford,
Agricultural Statistician

J. C. Townsend, Jr.,
Agricultural Statistician
In Charge

After five days return to,
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
302 Post Office Building, Orlando, Florida.

Penalty for private use to avoid
Payment of postage \$300.

Official Business.

Form BAE/A-3/52-3390
Permit No. 1001

